

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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43

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 RSR-01 M-03 A-01 /055 W
----- 064198

R 241010 Z JUN 73

FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 421
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0358

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT IZ
SUBJ: DIPLOMATIC LIFE IN BAGHDAD

1. IMMINENT DEPARTURE OF DUTCH AMB DE HOOP SCHEFFER HAS PROVIDED INTERESTING INSIGHT INTO ISOLATION OF WESTERN DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY FROM IRAQIS AND SENSITIVITY OF IRAQI OFFICIALS. DE HOOP SCHEFFER MADE COURTESY CALL ON PRES AL- BAKR ON JUN 23 AND FORMIN ABDUL BAQI ON JUN 24, BUT MFA HAS NOT RESPONDED TO HIS REQ FOR MEETINGS WITH OTHER OFFICIALS. SERIES OF GOING AWAY PARTIES HAVE BEEN ATTENDED BY ONLY HANDFUL OF PRIVATE IRAQIS, WELL KNOWN FOR THEIR WESTERN TIES.

2. DINNER PARTY GIVEN BY BELGIAN AMB JUN 23 WAS ATTENDED BY MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS DR. FALHIL SALMAN. DURING EXCHANGE OF TOASTS BELGIAN AND DUTCH AMBS MADE SOME JOKING COMMENTS ABOUT LIFE IN IRAQ, FOLLOWING WHICH DR. SALMAN DEPARTED. ON WAY OUT HE TOLD FRENCH AMB HE WOULD NOT ATTEND FRENCH DINNER FOR DE HOOP SCHEFFER BECAUSE OF HIS COMMENTS ABOUT IRAQ DURING TOAST.

3. COMMENT: REACTION OF EXPERIENCED IRAQI OFFICIALS SUCH AS DR. SALMAN TO SUCH SIGHTS, HOWEVER INNOCENT, IS NOT DUE TO CONFIDENTIAL

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LACK OF SOPHISTICATION, BUT INSTINCT FOR SELF- PRESERVATION AND
NECESSITY OF DISASSOCIATING THEMSELVES FROM SUCH INCIDENTS
WHICH IN ALL PROBABILITY WILL COME TO ATTENTION OF SECRET POLICE
IN EXAGGERATED FORM.

LOWRIE

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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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